Perfect Illusions
Stiletto Heels

Kyouko Kanzaka schséshö

Scanner: Hatsumint & Jaa_ga_craw
Translator: Hatsumint
ProofReader: Toxicstream
Cleaner: Eléanor / Litenar
Typeset: snotsi
Quality Checker: Ein

ALRIGHT...

HE W-IS
TEXTING...ON
HIS PHONE.

...ACCORDING
TO THE TRUCK
DRIVER,

ON THE
WAY HOME
FROM
WORK.

HE W-IS
RIDING ON HIS
BIKE.

DON'T THAT
WORRY YOU
GUYS?

HE W-IS IN
"OVERWHELMING
DISTRESS."

HE HE
WASN'T ABLE
TO AVOID IT...

MIZUTA
PLUNGED
INTO HIM
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING
ALL
BY YOURSELF?

I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT...

IS OU-
KUN...

I MEAN
ABOUT...

KARUTA'S
FEELINGS

YOU...

KANA!

BUT I WILL
NEVER TAKE MY
MY BLIND
AGAIN...

PRIZED MIXT NEVER BE
THE SAME...

AND THINGS
CAN'T EVEN
BOTHER DEXER
ANYMORE...

DING

DING
DING

DING

DONG

TAP
TAP

OKAY. WE'LL
NOW DECIDE
ON WHAT TO
PRESENT TO
OUR CULTURE
FESTIVAL.

PLEASE
RAISE
YOUR
HAND...

RAISE
YOUR HAND
IF YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEAS.

that's
the thing
about
OKAZAKI-
SAN.

HAHAHA

*Fried Octopus Dumplings

REALLY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S SERIOUSLY CRAVING FOR ONE RIGHT NOW.

SORRY, I DON'T KNOW. LA, LA, HUH?

YOU KNOW, THERE'S THE BUTTER, THERE'S THIS MEAT-BUN PLUS SORT OF THAN THAT YOU HOLD INTO THE DOUGH AND FRY THEM. I TEXT LIKE THIS TO MAKE IT OR AND DO THEY HAVE THEM?

Onigiri?

BUY YOURSELF ONE TO EAT.

THAT CAN'T BE THAT?

NO WAY! WHAT'S YOUR PLAN TO PUT OUT STUFF YOU LIKE TO EAT?

OKAY, THEN.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

She's one tough cookie.

TOTALLY. I DON'T REALLY GET NERVOUS WHEN SHE STARTED TALKING TO ME LIKE NORMAL.
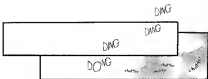
THAT'S WHY I GOT REALLY NERVOUS WHEN SHE STARTED TALKING TO ME LIKE NORMAL.

...TO RECOVER.

I THOUGHT SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE...

ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT MORE LIKE...

...MASOCHISTIC?

TOUKA, YOU SAY?

HAH.

THIS CAME AS A BIG SHOCK.

YOU KNOW, EVEN FOR ME.

THEY'VE BEEN CHILDHOOD FRIENDS FOR TEN YEARS...

As of the time of this writing...

...HAVE ALL SPLIT UP.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS...

BUT ANYWAY.

"I WON'T FORGIVE YOU."

WHAT'S GOING ON? THE WINDOW!

I GUESS HARUTA WAS NONE OTHER THAN...

KANNA-SAN'S BOYFRIEND, HUH?

WHAT A BUNCH OF CRYBABIES. JUST LOOK AT 'EM ALL.

Class

SYA-CHAN, BE FAIR.

SYA

THIS TIME THE FOUR OF US SPENT TOGETHER FEELS LIKE A DREAM.

HEY, YOUR ROOM IS A MESS

I KNOW.

OR...

MAYBE ALL THIS IS JUST A DREAM.

I'M HOME.

— CLICK

WOULD YOU NORMALLY DRESS LIKE THIS?

RUSTLE

INDEX ► 2004/07/31

RAWR

RAWR

OUCH!

SNORT

THE NIGHTS ARE UNBEARABLY LONG.

IT'S NOT THAT I WANT YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME.

I SO, UM...

I LOSE MY SENSE OF REALITY.

UM-HMM?

OR YOU CAN RELY ON ME IF YOU LIKE-- ER-- I MEAN...

BUT I KNOW THE WAY YOU FEEL THIS WAY. YOU GUYS, LIKE CONDI- TIONS.

I UNDER- STAND THAT "DAYS MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH FOR YOU AFTER WHAT HAPPENED."

I JUST FIGURED YOU MIGHT BE SAD, OR DIDN'T EVEN HAVE YOU AND YOUR CLOSE FRIENDS SEPARATED.

YOU'RE PROBABLY FEELING STRANGE BEING ON YOUR OWN, SO... UM...

OH, I'M SORRY.

OH, I'M SORRY.

I'M REALLY HURT, OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY...

I JUST FIGURED YOU MIGHT BE SAD, OR...

SORRY! THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT!

NO NO, THAT'S FINE.

WHAT I'M OFFERING YOU IS MY SUPPORT.

THAT'S WHY I'M

SOMEHOW ABLE...?

HANK

"I HAVE TO FORCE IT."

KERGH! ENGLISH CONVERSATION

I'M ON MY YEAR TRAVEL

MISS SETO KUNAH!

huh

Huh...

hehe...

"WHAT AN IDIOT!"

MY GOODNESS!

AM I WALKING AROUND NAKED AFTER TAKING OFF MY "MAKEOVER" COSTUME OR SOMETHING?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

NOT EVEN ABOUT HARUTA'S FEELINGS,

OR WHO AKARI REALLY LIKES.

"YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOURSELF AT ALL, KANNA."

I DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH...

ABOUT ANYTHING.

PROTECT YOU
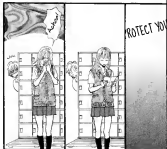
NONE OF HER FRIENDS TOLD ME ANYTHING.

THE ONLY PERSON WHO SAID SOMETHING WAS MAKI.

NOW I'M SO HAPPY

THANKS FOR THE CALL!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? SHOULD I WALK FOR A BIT?

NO PROBLEM. JUST ASK HIM.

ARE YOU HAPPY?

WELL... I HAD SOME FREE TIME

DO YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE?

OH, YOU CALLED FROM YOUR HOUSE PHONE, DIDN'T YOU?

REALLY? THAT WAS INCONVENIENT...

YEAH, I GUESS.

I PUT THE SERVICE ON HOLD FOR NOW.

I THINK.

I'M ALREADY ANNOYED WITH HIM.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

LET'S GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT.

I KNOW OF A GOOD RESTAURANT.

IT'S A BIT OF A WALK, BUT YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT, RIGHT?

UH, SURE, YEAH.

What the hell's wrong with you?!

eh!

We are transforming you to the mass mall to voice center.
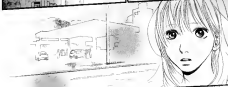
"THE
LIGHTS
ARE
OUT..."

I KEPT
HOPING WE
WOULD JUST
BE WITH HER.

SO EVEN
THOUGH I KNEW
ABOUT HER
FEELINGS.

AND JUST HOW
HARD HE TRIED
TO CONVINCE
YOU... I KNEW
ALL THAT.

I KNEW
HOW MUCH
HE LOVED
YOU.

TYPE OF
GUY...

I'M
THAT.

LET'S GO
BACK TO
BEING
FRIENDS
AGAIN, AT
KENTA'S...

YOU... IN
ABOUT WHAT I
TOLD YOU.

SO NONE
OF IT WAS
YOUR
FAULT.

AT KENTA'S
HOUSE.

CALL IT
"DESTINY."

WHY DID
YOU HAVE TO
DO THIS?

WHY DID YOU DO IT?
TELL ME. CALL IT
"PURE ACCIDENT."

DID YOU ENJOY
THE TOUCHING?

WHY DID YOU
FLIRT WITH
OTHER GIRLS.

AND THEN, TELL
ME. WAS IT
REALLY OKAY OF YOU
TO DECIDE ALL ON
YOUR OWN?

WHY GIVE ME
KITTY-KISSES?

WHY DID YOU
SAY, "IT'S NOW
OR NEVER"?

TELL ME,

HARUKA.

THUD

KYU

KTUNK

HEY!

KTAK

WHAT WAS IT THAT YOU ACTUALLY SAID AN INSTANT—

WAIT.

I THINK IF GREEN MIGHT LOOK BETTER HERE.

REALLY? I PREFER BLUE.

SHOULDN'T IT BE RED? HMM.

IT SHOULD BE GREEN, RIGHT?

If you add water to that blue,

it'll turn violet.

Behind Friend's again.

And mix in a splash of pink.

Gotcha.

Um, wait.

Not a color they don't even have.

...at least.

CLATTER

Whoa. That scared me.

I'LL DO IT.

KURUMA'S PROBABLY ANGRY.

WEIRD COLOR.

HE'D NEVER LET YOU PAINT IT VIOLET.

...I SAID THE COLOR THAT MATCHED THE VEST.

I'M ALSO...

IT'S ANEMIA.

I'M GUESSING SHE PROBABLY HASN'T HAD ENOUGH NUTRITION.

HER SKIN IS DRY AS WELL.

HER YOUTH IS GONE, I TELL YOU.

HARUKA.

ALL BY YOURSELF.

WHIFF

I'm coming.

BEEP

A TEXT
MAIL...

JUST
SEND ME
ONE.

THEN HAPPENS
TO BE ... YOU'RE
ROOM.

YES, IT IS.

YOUR FAULT, KANNA.

IT'S NOT...

AND THE CELL PHONE'S FAULT.
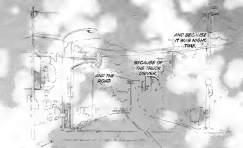
AND BECAUSE YOU WERE WITH MAYAMA.

AND THE MOTORBIKE'S, TOO.

AND BECAUSE WE TOOK THAT PART-TIME JOB.

AND BECAUSE OF THE SHOP'S FAULT.

AND BE— BECAUSE
IT WAS ALWAYS
THAT...

BECAUSE
OF THE TRUCK
COMING...

AND THE
ROAD...

...BUT...

YOU CAN'T
SAY IT WAS
MY FAULT,
MAA...!

swf!

HE TURNED
ME DOWN.

YOU'VE
TURNED A
BIT OF A MY
RESPECT...

ON THE DAY
OF THE
FESTIVAL.

swf!

FOR
WHAT?!

AHH, MAN.

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED WHO KANNA'LL BE!

SORRY, ASUMI.

"UHH" "KANNA?"

EVEN TATSUKI WAS THE ONE TALKING TO HIM. HE DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO LOOK AT MY FACE.
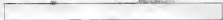
REALLY IRRITATED ME.

JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW IT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT KANNA.

IF ONLY...

KANNA.

...IF I HAD
NOTICED...

KANNA.

KANNA-CHAN.

...SOONER...

WOULD SOMETHING
HAVE CHANGED,
THEN?

HIGH FESTIVAL

HEY

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?

WHAT

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING?!

BECAUSE I CUT IT OFF.

I HAD IT UP

WHAT AN AWFUL COUNSELOR ON "MATTERS OF THE HEART"

I'M KIND OF DISAP- POINTED

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A HEART?

WAIT UP! LET'S GO AROUND. I WON'T GO TOGETHER!

SEE YOU

SO ANNOYING.

WE'RE
HERE
WITH U!

YOU ALL
BY
YOURSELF!?

GONNA
BUY IT
HERE,
OKAY?

SURE.
I'LL
COME
LATER.

LIKE
PARASITES.

GUYS ARE

THE WORLD
WITHOUT YOU
IS REALLY
STRANGE.

THERE ARE
A FEW GUYS
OVER
THERE.

BUT MOST
ARE JUST
CREEPY.

MURMUR.

HEY!

DESPITE
THAT, IT'S
HARD TO FIND
SOMEONE TO
TREASURE.

You're getting all the attention.

Shouldn't we look over there? I invited her... with make-up...

He... he's jealous...

Really? Is that so?

Friends

I'm sorry.

You had such a beautiful girl.

No, beauti— ...ful—

WHEN COMPARED TO THE THINGS ONE LOSES...

HER GROWN BACK VIEW WAS QUICKLY...

AFTER KOUMEI WENT CRAZY.

WE WENT TO BEACH. IT TOOK US TWO HOURS TO GET THERE.

klunk klunk

klunk klunk

IT FELT EVEN MORE PAINFUL.

THEIR SISTER AND ME LIT THE FIRE-WORKS.

IT FIGURE.

Ko-
to-
ri

Koん Koん

Koん Koん

Koん
Koん

Koん Koん

Koん Koん

Koん Koん

Koん Koん

WE DON'T KNOW
WHERE WE'RE
HEADING YET.

BUT FAR
AWAY IN THE
DISTANCE.

WE CAN
SEE THE
LIGHT.